

# Trend Analysis Committee Meeting

## Notes

**Date:** Monday, August 6, 2007, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** DHS Building, Salt Lake City, Room 314

**In Attendance:** Angela French, Angela Robbins, Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Bert Peterson, Carol Miller, Colleen Lasater, Jane Lewis, Jay Davis, Jeff Harrop, JJ Glazier, Kevin Jackson, Linda Prince, Linda Wininger, Navina Forsythe, Phyllis Lee, Reba Nissen, Savania Tsosie, Tanya Albornoz

**Excused:** Sam Syphrett

Aude will be facilitating the Trend Analysis Committee from now on.

### **Placement Stability and Re-entry:**

Regional plans: What's working? What's not? Lessons learned? What else could/should we do?

We prepared regional plans last month. Linda W. presented the proposed plans for the committee to review.

### **Re-entry**

Needs/Issues:

- Add more intensive PSS for children who have returned home under "Discharge to stable placements".
- Add understanding of what resources are available under "Better understanding of how to support kinship placements".
- Add new item, "Collaborating with the courts".

Strategies:

- O&A in each region was discussed. Navina described the process between DJJS and DCFS on O&A placements, which will help with our re-entry numbers but may affect our placement stability numbers.
- The Court Improvement Project also needs to submit a plan to the federal government. They have new monies for training and will be collaborating with us on that training.
- Workers and supervisors may need additional training about when O&A is necessary and when it will be helpful.
- Add: Get information from Judy about the work she is doing for the Kinship program.

- Add: Work with Katie Gregory (Court Improvement Project) about regular reporting to the judges.
- Add: Releasing the Safety Model and training on decision-making.
- Northern Region is holding administrative staffing cases before re-entry occurs, when possible.
- Brainstorming of strategies:
  - For providing more intensive PSS services under Needs/Issues, we need a strategy for addressing this item. Resources are problematic, and some regions do not offer family preservation services due to lack of resources. Western Region is working on creating a family presentation team by collaborating with Wasatch Mental Health. Wrap-around services are being done with families in Eastern Region. Reba suggested having more regular purposeful visiting for families involved in PSS at the return home point (the purposeful visiting training and handbook are being created right now). Kevin commented that better planning before return home occurs is necessary (transition planning). In Salt Lake Valley Region, staffings are held to look at the transition plan to try and keep children from re-entering care. We can look at standardizing practice to use trial home placements before returning a child home with PSS. Angela stated that in Western Region they use extended visitation during the transition phase. Mentoring of caseworkers and supervisors around these suggestions can occur in different ways, and we may want to institutionalize these options in a more concrete way. Transition planning is problematic across the state. Tanya said they are working on a document of suggestions for transition planning. Reba said that they will also add this information to the supervisor handbook. Bert stated that we need to think about the increase in cases and how extra requirements may affect our work with families. Linda W. is working on a caseworker wish list, and she is getting worker input for this list. Lack of resources is the common theme. Kevin commented that any plan shared with caseworkers regarding appropriate use of trial home visits should be shared with the Attorneys General and Guardians ad Litem in hopes of maintaining legal support for caseworkers' recommendations.
  - Tanya wanted to know what the strategies are for "Better understanding of drug relapse" and "IV-E eligibility". Cosette is working on the IV-E eligibility piece. Training should address substance abuse issues (on-line substance abuse training for caseworkers). **Aude will add these to the strategies.** Reba commented that they are also working with the NRC on additional trainings around substance abuse issues. Colleen stated that we need to give the courts more options of what to do with certain situations (relapse planning). Supporting workers is critical for this strategy. We can also look at utilizing clinical staff for these needs. Pre-planning before appearing in court can be enhanced. One of the action steps can be adding relapse planning to the safety model training (**Angela R. will take this to the safety model workgroup**). Getting staff to understand that the safety model will not bring new requirements but only gives better terminology and ways of performing effectively will be helpful in getting their buy-in. Linda W. explained that in

some offices, informal staffings are occurring while workers eat lunch together and share their cases. We can suggest utilizing these informal staffings for sharing ideas.

### Placement Stability

- Needs/Issues:
  - Add, “Adam Walsh Act” as this is affecting practice in all areas of our work, especially when looking at kinship care.
- Strategies:
  - Add information about the study that Katy is currently working on for “Evaluation of use of shelters” under Needs/Issues. JJ commented that they are working on having concurrent plans while searching for kinship placements while the child is in shelter care. Data shows that children who are placed in shelter care do not have less placement changes than children who were not placed in shelter. Sometimes, shelter is used for respite care. Education of our legal partners and workers about using shelter care in order to get a shelter hearing is needed. Shelter care should be used only in emergency situations. Temporary placement in a foster home while searching for an appropriate placement should be utilized.
  - Lack of available placement homes is affecting placement decisions. Many workers have found that the first placement wasn’t the best fit for the child, but it was the only placement available at the time.
  - We have 24 hours before a placement is counted, but SAFE currently looks at these data on a daily basis.
  - For purposeful visits, assess placement stability while visiting in the foster home (Melissa and Tanya).
  - Tanya is working on standardizing what the RFCs are working on for statewide standardization.
  - Tanya is also working on standardizing respite throughout the state. This will be included in practice guidelines.

**Linda and Aude will add these suggestions to the plans and send it to the group for review and feedback. We will look at who will be responsible for what actions and possibly hold an interim meeting before our next Trends Analysis Committee meeting.**

### TPR documentation:

We need to find a way to better document TPR information. What are the needs in this area and how can we best capture this?

- This requirement is important for the CFSR. Navina presented data around TPR for children in care 15 of the last 22 months. **Navina will send these data to regional representatives for them to look at the cases who do not have compelling reasons for TPR.**
- There currently is an action item prompt in SAFE to remind workers at 12 of 22 months to pay attention to this item. We need to provide clarification for workers to

let them know what is needed and where to enter this information. Jeff and Navina suggested using quarterly reports to mentor workers and supervisors. The CFSR looks at the filing date. **Jay will see if the action item is cleared when information is entered for one parent and not both.**

- We need to collaborate with the courts on getting the date the TPR is filed, especially when looking at unknown fathers.
- **Milestone coordinators will find out if CARE people have been trained in their regions.**
- **Navina will check to see if CARE can track the filing dates.**

**What trends/data do we want to continue looking at?**

With the end of the lawsuit, we want to reconsider which trend indicators are meaningful for us to monitor. Do we want to add any? Eliminate any?

- **We will look at this item during our next meeting.**

**Increase in number of children in foster care.**

If there is enough time, we would like to look at the current trend of increased numbers of SCF cases.

- **We will look at this item during our next meeting.**

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 30, 2007.**